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U. S. Department of Agriculture

# **HYBRID PEONIES**

**A. P. SAUNDERS**

**Clinton**

**New York**

**1949 - 50**

**T**HE STRAINS offered here are arranged roughly by season, beginning with the earliest. In my garden I have peonies for almost two months, beginning about May 5 with the earliest species and hybrids, and ending about July 5 with the last of the Chinese peonies and sometimes with belated blooms on *P. lutea* and its hybrids.

Peony shipping season September and October. Transportation prepaid. Prices are indicated in the list. Cash should accompany orders.

### *Directions for Planting*

Failures with peonies are more often due to bad planting than to poor roots. The ground should be prepared in advance and must be **deeply dug**. Two feet is not too much; 18 inches is a minimum, and the hole where the root is to be set should be filled with good friable loam. Some manure at the bottom will be to the good but it must not come into contact with the roots. These must be set **not too deep**.

In the case of the herbaceous peonies, the buds should be placed so that they will be covered with two or three inches of soil.

Tree peonies and the *lutea* hybrids should be planted at the depth at which they have been growing. In grafted plants the union between the understock and the scion should be a couple of inches below the surface of the soil.

At the best however, peonies cannot be expected to give much bloom the first year after setting.

# Herbaceous Peonies

## HYBRIDS

(Roughly in order of blooming season)

### **Mlokozewitschi x tenuifolia**

**No. 6941.** Fine light pink. Extremely early, being among the first peonies to bloom. \$5.00

**Daystar.** (1949) Distinctly yellow on opening. Lovely. \$15.00

### **Albiflora x macrophylla (tomentosa)**

All very early—before the officinalis varieties and about two weeks before the beginning of the Chinese peonies.

**Chalice.** The largest single peony in the list. Pure white blooms, 8 to 9 inches across, with long silky stamens, rise erect on heavy stems about three feet tall. Very lovely. When it is in bloom it is hard to notice any other flower. \$15.00

**Seraphim.** Abundant bloomer. White single. Early. \$10.00

**Celia.** Semi-double with tuft of petals in the centre. Color light flesh with yellow cast. Very early. \$5.00

**Shell Pink.** A fine upstanding plant with single flowers of pale pink having a slight cast of yellowish green. Early and desirable. \$5.00

### **Second Generation Hybrid**

**Fantasia.** (1941) Single flesh pink, crinkled petals of great substance; crimson stigmas. Grand foliage and stature. \$10.00

### **Willmottiae x macrophylla**

**Silver Dawn.** (1949) White faintly flushed. Finest substance. Silvery gray-green foliage, touched with crimson edge. The plant has great style. \$15.00

### **Albiflora x Wittmanniana**

**Green Ivory.** Flowers light green with some yellow. Distinct and beautiful. A novel color and a very early variety. \$15.00

**Elizabeth Cahn.** (1942) Very large white goblet; petals somewhat twisted, with underlay of faint green. Delicate, erect, beautiful. \$10.00

**Magnolia Flower.** (1949) Named after the flower it most resembles. Large, mauve and cream. \$15.00

### **Albiflora x decora**

**Reward.** (1941) Upright, very handsome. Flat single bloom; beautiful warm dark maroon. \$5.00

### **Albiflora x decora alba**

**Camellia.** (1942) White with a silky lustre, and a flush of peach pink. Flowers becoming semi-double; may be fully double on well-established plants. Extremely promising. \$15.00

## **Officinalis x decora alba**

**Diantha.** (1942) Very early. Delightful pale pink flowers. Plants rather dwarf. Flowers medium in size. \$10.00

## **Officinalis x lobata**

These plants have a much better habit and stature than lobata itself and the flowers approximate the brilliant color of lobata. Being hybrids between closely related forms they are fertile.

**Scarlet Tanager.** (1942) (officinalis rubra plena x lobata) Tall plants with vermilion red blooms.

**Little Dorrit.** (formerly 9002) (1949) Small flower of very unusual color: Salmon with bright red flares. Outside petals light pink. \$10.00

**Ladybird.** (1949) Lovely cup of bright tomato-red color. Very early. \$10.00

## **Albiflora x officinalis**

### **The "Challenger" Group (albiflora x single officinalis)**

A strain of extraordinary robustness. The stems are sometimes nearly an inch thick, and the height of the plants and weight of the foliage proportional.

**Challenger.** Garden Achievement Medal and Silver Medal of American Peony Society. Tall dark crimson with bright yellow anthers. \$5.00

**Defender.** Dark mahogany crimson. A very large cup with a mass of silky stamens. Blooms with the later officinalis. Court of Honor, Syracuse, 1941. \$5.00

**Erebus.** Fine very dark mahogany red single. The darkest of this group. Conspicuous yellow stamens. \$15.00

**Tantrums.** (1942) Very dark crimson single. Fine color. In centre, wild confusion of yellow stamens. \$5.00

### **Other hybrids between albiflora and forms of officinalis**

**Marta.** Very tall. Flowers loosely double. Brilliant lustrous deepest mahogany red, with touches of white on the edges of the petals. Very effective. Award of Merit, Mass. Hort. Soc.; Court of Honor Award, Syracuse, 1941. \$5.00

**Cavatina.** (formerly Felicity). A light bright cherry pink. Single. Filaments almost white, stigmas crimson. (Hybrid between P. albiflora and officinalis rosea plena.) \$10.00

**Jacqueminot.** (1941) Full double crimson bomb, the color of the rose for which it is named. The buds look like huge rosebuds. \$5.00

**Postilion.** (1941) Enormous flower of deep scarlet crimson. Very brilliant. Semi-double flat cup. \$15.00

**Legion of Honor.** (1941) Beautiful almost single flat flower of lustreless cherry scarlet. Light green foliage. Unusual and striking. Court of Honor Award, Syracuse, 1941. \$5.00

**Rosy Wreath.** (1941) Single very pale pink cup. Charming. \$10.00

**Bordeaux.** (albiflora x Sabini) (1943) Large claret colored single. Large centre of yellow stamens and petaloids, some edged crimson. Effective and showy of its color. Flowers held well above foliage. \$10.00

**Edward Steichen.** (1949) Superb variety. Magnificent semi-double, like Challenger, but darker. The finest of this strain. \$15.00

## **Albiflora x Ozieri alba**

### **The "Halcyon" Group**

This is a quite new race of hybrids. Very fine erect carriage with stout stems. Flowers of heavy substance, faint mauve on greenish ivory ground, with dark flares. Unique and beautiful. Offered this year for the first time. \$15.00

## **Macrophylla x coriacea**

Also a distinctly new race.

**Picotee.** White with delicate bright violet edges. Not for sale this year.

## **Albiflora x coriacea**

### **The "Lavender" Group**

This is also a new race. The color is a beautiful clear lilac, becoming more and more delicate as the flower ages. Very few roots for sale. \$10.00

## **Veitchi x Emodi. Early Windflower**

## **Beresowskyi x Emodi. Late Windflower**

These two strains are so closely alike that I prefer to offer them under the above names. The early strain blooms at the very beginning of the peony season; the other about a week later. These plants are graceful and unusual. The flowers, which are only moderate in size, resemble white anemones. They are slightly nodding and are borne on tall stems. The foliage is fern-like and very handsome. Sold as a strain only, the plants in each group being all closely alike. \$5.00

## **Albiflora x Emodi**

**Innocence.** (1947) Very tall, 4½ feet, of graceful stature, each swaying stem carrying four or five single pure white flowers, with greenish-white centres of transformed stamens. Unique and lovely as a garden plant. \$10.00

## **Albiflora x Otto Froebel**

The plants cover themselves with gaily held flowers in some new and fresh shades of pink, charming for cutting or in the garden.

**Hope.** Semi-double, an exquisite flower, of an intense pure rose color, absolutely free from mauve, a color rare in herbaceous peonies. Comes sometimes full double. \$5.00

**Anniversary.** (1941) Fringed flowers. Like a huge pink Shirley poppy. \$10.00

**Mercy.** Beautiful salmon rose cup. Single. Very attractive. \$5.00



- Good Will.** (1941) One of the last in bloom of this strain. Almost double; bright rosy pink. \$15.00
- Victoria Lincoln.** One of the handsomest of the group. Clear pink. Large full double when established. Magnificent. \$10.00
- Lotus Bloom.** Superb enormous flat semi-double light pink flower of quite extraordinary substance. Tall. First quality \$15.00

## **Albiflora x lobata**

This race of hybrids contains many beautiful pink and red colors we have so long desired in the Chinese peonies—flesh, cherry, salmon, coral and rose pinks to clear bright crimsons, with no hint of purple and never a bad color in all the hundreds that have bloomed. I think this is the most brilliant and effective strain of hybrid peonies yet produced. A gold medal was awarded for a group of these at the American Peony Society Show in Boston, 1947, and at the New York Shows, 1948 and 1949.

- Janice.** Tall erect variety bearing good-sized flowers of a charming pale salmon pink color. Extra. Very early. \$5.00
- Nathalie.** Magnificent flat bloom almost full double, brilliant salmon rose. \$10.00
- Julia Grant.** Semi-double. Very fine clear pink color. First Class Certificate, Mass. Hort. Soc. 1947. \$10.00
- Coralie.** Cherry single. Unusual color. A beauty. \$10.00
- Grace Root.** Light clear salmon pink cup-shaped single. Much admired at Boston Show, 1940. \$5.00
- Sophie.** Brightest cherry red; upstanding; large semi-double cup. Fine centre. First Class Certificate, Mass. Hort. Soc. 1947. \$10.00
- Cecilia.** Light bright cherry. Fringed. Enormous goblet. One of the best. First Class Certificate, Mass. Hort. Soc. 1947. \$10.00
- Cardinal's Robe.** Brilliant and shining scarlet single. Very striking color. Award of Merit, Mass. Hort. Soc. 1947. Court of Honor, New York, 1948. \$10.00
- Ludovica.** (1941) Clear rose pink. Very large semi-double cup. One of the best. Bronze Medal, and First Class Certificate, Mass. Hort. Soc. 1947. \$10.00
- Ellen Cowley.** Bright cherry semi-double rosette. Lovely. \$10.00
- Laura Magnuson.** (1941) Very large cup-shaped light clear bright rose, semi-double. Late for this strain. \$10.00
- Elizabeth Foster.** (1941) Single brightest rose-pink flat cup. Large and brilliant. \$10.00
- Alert.** (1941) Exceptionally brilliant crimson single. \$10.00
- Constance Spry.** (1941) Magnificent bright cherry semi-double. A beauty. \$15.00
- Alexander Woolcott.** (1941) Large semi-double flat cup, shining crimson. The very brilliant color never fades. Award of Merit, Mass. Hort. Soc. 1947. \$15.00
- Nadia.** (1941) Wide-spreading cherry pink blossom, with slightly crinkled petals. Late for this strain. \$10.00
- Emblem.** (1941) Single deep lustreless red flowers of finest substance. Very floriferous. \$10.00



- Red Red Rose.** (1942) Brightest crimson-scarlet bomb. Very handsome. \$10.00
- Skylark.** (1942) Upright goblets of clearest pink, held very high. \$5.00
- Lovely Rose.** (1942) Deep creamy pink semi-double. A lovely and unique quality of color. Court of Honor, New York, 1949. \$10.00
- Bravura.** (1943) Shining light crimson with white flares on outside of petals. Charmingly crinkled and of fine form. Brilliant and effective. \$10.00
- Great Lady.** (1943) Single or slightly semi-double very large loftily held widely expanded blooms of China pink. Fine garden plant. \$10.00
- Rose D'Amont.** (1943) Tall upraised cup of clear salmon rose. Single. Petals folded in a pointed fashion which gives great style to the flower. Late for this race. \$15.00
- Rose Garland.** (1943) China pink single cup. On the reverse, conspicuous white flares streaked pink. Rather dwarf. A delightful little plant. \$10.00
- Fortune.** (1943) Rounded goblet of bright rose with strong white outside and coral pink warmth inside. A beauty. \$10.00
- Claudia.** (1944) Very tall erect semi-double goblet, 3½ to 4 feet. Opens bright light cherry, changing to clear pale salmon pink. Very good \$15.00
- Carina.** (1944) Intense shining scarlet-crimson. Semi-double rose form. Very brilliant. \$15.00
- Rose Tulip.** (1947) Flowers erect, tall, like pink tulips. Unusual. \$10.00
- Your Majesty.** (1947) Imposing, erect carriage, 4 to 5 feet. Uplifted scarlet goblets. \$15.00
- Masterpiece.** (1949) Enormous flowers. Perfect goblets of clear bright rose-pink. Double when established. Superb. \$15.00
- Moonrise.** (1949) Exquisite creamy yellow, single. A beauty. \$15.00

### **Triple Hybrids in which albiflora, officinalis and macrophylla are combined**

- Pageant.** (1941) Light pink with an enormous cluster of stamens. Tall and upstanding. Very conspicuous. \$10.00
- Campagna.** Deep white goblet with greenish shadows. Filled with a mass of bright gold anthers. Petals slightly fringed and crinkled. A lovely flower. \$10.00
- Burgundy.** (albiflora x [macrophylla x officinalis]). (1941) Blackish purple petals of heavy substance, lustreless and crinkled; brilliant yellow stamens. Noble carriage. An outstanding beauty. \$10.00

### **Varieties of uncertain parentage**

- Horizon.** Very large flesh-colored single with enormous centre of golden stamens. Very tall. Outstanding. \$10.00
- Patriot.** Bright crimson goblet held high. Fine pure color. About 4 ft. Very vigorous plant. First, Hybrid Herbaceous Peonies, New York, 1948. \$10.00

## Quadruple Hybrids

These are my newest race of all; hybrids combining four species: *albiflora*, *officinalis*, *macrophylla* and *Mlo-kosewitschi*. The latter gives them all a golden ivory tone, or undertone, that groups them in a class quite by themselves. This year for the first time I can offer a few plants of three of them.

**Daybreak.** (No. 16320) (1949) Old ivory, flushed rose.  
Very sturdy grower. \$15.00

**Candlelight.** (No. 16283) (1949) High held flat goblet, golden ivory, flared, and with conspicuous centre of crimson and yellow stamens. Dark bronze foliage. Tall, erect plants. \$15.00

**Starlight.** (No. 16285) (1949) Very lovely. Two rows of creamy ivory petals, faintly flushed in centre. \$15.00

## PEONY SPECIES

I offer a few species some of which are not easy to obtain true to name.

**anomala.** I can offer a few seedling plants of this interesting species, which I think I have true to name. It is a very different plant from *Smouthi*, which is often sold as *anomala*. The flowers of the true species are purplish in color, somewhat nodding and not much to look at, but of botanical interest. \$5.00

**Emodi.** The Himalayan peony. With nodding white flowers and extremely handsome foliage. A beautiful species. \$5.00

**macrophylla (tomentosa).** A very large-leaved species from the Caucasus region. Flowers white; one of the first of all peonies to bloom. \$5.00

**Mlo-kosewitschi.** The only truly yellow herbaceous peony and one of the most beautiful of hardy plants. A very early bloomer. Although not always certain to succeed, it should at least be tried. Only small plants available. \$5.00

**triternata.** Very early. Light mauve pink flowers. Foliage waved. A plant worth having. \$5.00

**Veitchi.** Closely related to *anomala*. Flowers similar in color. \$5.00

**Willmottiae.** A very beautiful white-flowered species from Western China; one of the earliest of all peonies; large handsome foliage. Very rare. \$5.00

## Tree Peonies

I have a few large plants of tree peonies—plants of five to ten years growth, unnamed but which I can offer by color at from \$10.00 to \$25.00 according to size and quality.

My friend, Mr. William Gratwick, of Pavilion, N. Y., has quite a large stock of Japanese tree peonies in a carefully selected group of fine varieties. I have made arrangements with him to help me in filling any orders that come to me which I am unable to fill myself. I am delighted to have his stock to fall back on.

## P. LUTEA

**Paeonia lutea** is the wild yellow tree peony from Southern China. Flowers 2 to 3 inches across; like an enlarged buttercup, with a lily-like fragrance; foliage fernlike, very handsome. A beautiful and unusual plant. The flowers vary from clear yellow through tones of orange, equally attractive. Please specify, on ordering, if **only** yellow is desired. \$5.00

## HYBRIDS BETWEEN CHINESE TREE PEONIES and P. LUTEA or P. DELAVAYI

**Argosy.** (1928) Clear sulphur yellow, single, 6 to 7 inches across, with plum colored dash at base of petals. Garden Achievement Medal, Boston; F. C. C. Mass. Hort. Soc.; Court of Honor Award, Syracuse, 1941. \$10.00

Besides Argosy I have some sixty other named varieties worthy to be put on the market. The following list includes all those that have been named. I have again been disappointed this year in the results of propagation, at the best, uncertain; so that I am practically unable to offer them at present. I shall hope to have more for the next season.

**Age of Gold.** (1948) Intense yellow, double. Flat rosette.

**Alhambra.** (1948) Reddish gold double. Crinkled. Purple flares.

**Amber Moon.** (1948) Deep soft yellow, edged and flushed crimson. Early and large.

**Apricot.** (1948) Dusky rose and yellow. Silver gray foliage. Flowers held high.

**Banquet.** (1941) Shining red. Flat rosette. Intensely dark flares around a brilliant centre.

**Black Douglas.** (1948) Rosette, full semi-double. Almost black. Very floriferous.

**Black Panther.** (1948) Like a semi-double Black Pirate. Large, and of similar style and color.

**Black Pirate.** (1935) Vote of Commendation, Mass. Hort. Soc. Very dark mahogany red with black stains at base of petals. Single.

**Brocade.** (1941) Red gold single. Deep wine-colored stains at base of petals. A flower of great style and substance. Late.

**Canary.** (1940) An even brighter yellow than Argosy; otherwise very similar in form and general character. A lovely flower.

**Celestial.** (1948) Semi-double pale yellow with almost black flares. Petals edged pale rose. Bronze foliage.

**Charioteer.** (1949) Very dark crimson, near Black Pirate in color. Petals stained lighter red. Flat open bloom. Fine satiny texture.

**Chinese Dragon.** (1948) Semi-double bright red with dark flares. Large yellow centre.

**Conquest.** (1948) Immense flat flower. Strawberry red lighted with yellow.

**Coronal.** (1948) Deep ivory and pale yellow edged and flushed with rose.

- Corsair.** (1941) A darker Black Pirate, the darkest of all so far.
- Countess.** (1942) Dusky yellow flushed with red.
- Daffodil.** (1948) Small perfectly finished rosette. Clear-est daffodil yellow. No flares.
- Damask.** (1941) Buff yellow double with deep red stains.
- Daredevil.** (1948) Finest bright garnet red. Large flower.
- Festival** (1941) Pale creamy yellow edged and flushed with rose. A flat rosette almost double. A very finished flower.
- Golden Bowl.** (1948) Cup chaped. Brilliant yellow, of great substance.
- Golden Hind.** (1948) Superb; blooms 7 to 8 inches across. Deep cream yellow, wide open rosette. Court of Honor, New York, 1949.
- Golden Isles.** (1948) Very brilliant yellow, almost black flares. Double.
- Goldfinch.** (1948) Rather small, almost single. Yellow, no flares.
- Gold Sovereign.** (1949) Exquisite bright golden, flat double rosette. Very good and distinct.
- Happy Days.** (1948) Very floriferous; golden, flushed red.
- Harvest.** (1943) Bronze gold with rosy edges. Semi-double; a very decorative and finished flower.
- Heart of Darkness.** (1948) One of the very rare second generation plants of this cross. Almost black and of heaviest substance.
- Hesperus.** (1948) Pale yellow overlaid with dusky rose, a curious and exquisite color.
- Holiday.** (1948) Full double rosette. Cream, edged rose-colored.
- Hyperion.** (1948) Light clear yellow, almost double, cup-shaped.
- Infanta.** (1948) Ivory white with dark flares. Small; very heavy substance.
- Lombard.** (1948) Deep red plum color. Single. Finest substance.
- Marchioness.** (1942) Soft yellow suffused pale strawberry pink; brilliant centre. Single. Beautiful form, style and substance.
- Melody.** (1948) Palest mauve over cream yellow. Plum-colored flares. Single, large flower.
- Monitor.** (1948) Clear shining dark red, with brilliant centre. Almost double flat rosette.
- Mystery.** (1948) Large flower of lavender with darker shading.
- Narcissus.** (1941) Clear pale yellow, rosy towards the centre. A fine little flower.
- Nereid** (1949) Palest yellow; silvery edges. Semi-double, open-faced flower.
- Orion.** (1948) Brilliant semi-double. Roman gold color. Very dark foliage.
- Phoenix.** (1941) Catawba color. Very dark centre.

- Princess.** (1941) Semi-double mauve suffused with golden sheen. Pale gold centre. A beauty.
- Red Currant.** (1948) First, Hybrid Tree Peonies, New York, 1948. Large shining crimson. Purplish foliage.
- Red Jade.** (1948) Dark red, large flat single flower.
- Regent.** (1945) Almost perfectly double. Yellowish, suffused red. Very handsome.
- Renown.** (1949) Large loosely spreading flower. Bright light strawberry red, with yellow undertone. Very fine at New York Show, 1949.
- Roman Gold.** (1941) A very brilliant yellow of perfect form. Single. One of the best.
- Segovia.** (1949) Tawny yellow, flat open single. Lovely and unusual color.
- Silver Plane.** (1948) Creamy color of fine substance, with plum colored flares. Graceful level flower.
- Silver Sails.** (1942) Beautiful pale silvery yellow faintly flushed; semi-double; heavy petals. Exquisite.
- Spanish Gold.** (1948) Brilliant yellow double.
- Spring Carnival.** (1944) Yellow with large area at centre stained dark red.
- Stardust.** (1948) The plant covers itself with small yellow flowers. Charming.
- Summer Night.** (1949) Dusky dark rose, semi-double with yellow undertone. Light stamens against dark central flares. Very handsome.
- Sunrising.** (1948) Yellow double. Blooms in clusters.
- Tea Rose.** (1948) Lovely and unusual color of warm light amber.
- Thunderbolt.** (1948) Black crimson, streaked scarlet crimson. Much style.
- Tiger Tiger.** (1948) Unique color. An orange red. Semi-double.
- Titania** (1949) Palest yellow fading to white at edges, flushed rose. Like a more delicate Festival.
- Trophy.** (1944) Fine strawberry red; flat double flower.
- Vesuvian.** (1948) Very dark red, full double.
- Wings of the Morning.** (1948) Very large single; pale yellow with greenish tone and purple flares. Petals crinkled. A great bloomer.

